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Letter from Dan Glickman to Henry Spira

Dan Glickman

Department of Agriculture

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

AUG 23 1996

Mr. Henry Spira
Coordinator
Animal Rights International
Post Office Box 214
Planetarium Station
New York, New York 10024

Dear Mr. Spira:

Thank you for your letter of May 24, 1996, concerning the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) activities regarding farm animal welfare. We regret the delay in our response.

Your support for our efforts to promote the well-being of animals is most gratifying, and your complimentary words about our activities in this area are appreciated. We are certainly aware that the treatment of animals is a matter of great concern to most Americans. Animal welfare is a high priority to USDA, as well as to me personally, and all of us here are committed to working with you and your colleagues to ensure that animals are protected and well cared for.

In this regard, we are optimistic that the Animal Well-Being Task Group will continue to provide a useful forum for USDA, animal industry commodity groups, and animal protection groups to present their concerns about issues involving the care and treatment of farm animals and to develop workable solutions to problems. We welcome your continued input on this subject.

I am very glad to have had the opportunity to meet you, and I know that Assistant Secretary Dunn and Deputy Assistant Secretary Watkins look forward to working closely with you. In the meantime, you have my assurances that we will continue to make every effort to protect the animals within our purview.

Thank you again for writing.

Sincerely,


DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary